# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP | | |
| 1700 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 300 | | |
| ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | |

| EXAMINER |
|---|
| KAO, JUTAI |

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## Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

**Continuation Sheet**


First point:

The applicant asserts that "Nothing in Wu suggest that "working lines become inactive in the view of the system" when data are routed through protection line. Particularly, the fact that "When a line failure occurs in the physical line, the physical signals are rerouted onto the protection line" does not involve that working line becomes inactive and protection line becomes active as claimed in claim 1. So Wu does not disclose that "a serial line being an active line, the other serial line of said group being an inactive line" as claimed in claim 1".

However, since the signals are no longer transmitted on the working line, the line is considered inactive as it is no longer working. On the other hand, the protection line starts transmitting the signals and thus becomes the working and active line.


Second point:

The applicant asserts that "The examiner argues that: "The applicant also argues that Wu does not disclose that a physical Identifier being allocated to each serial line. However, as shown in the previous action, paragraph 100131 and Fig. 2 of Wu does disclose a number of working lines with physical identifiers." Actually, Wu discloses a number of working lines with physical identifiers. But it does not mean that one working line has a unique physical identifier in the system. For example, according to Wu it's possible to have two working lines with both the same physical identifier. As a

consequence, Wu does not disclose that a physical identifier is allocated to each serial line as claimed in claim 1".

However, the claim language simply recites "first allocating each serial line with a physical identifier". Nowhere in the claim requires that a unique physical identifier to be assigned to each and every one of the serial line as suggested by the applicant's argument. The claim only requires that each serial line to have a physical identifier, regardless of the identifier being unique. Therefore, even if Wu's invention does have two working lines having both the same physical identifier, as shown in the applicant's example, Wu's invention would still read on the claim.

Third point:

The applicant asserts that "As claimed in claim 1, each group of serial lines has a logical identifier prior to any other operations. Especially the step of associating the physical identifier of the active serial line with each logical identifier occurs after the step of allocating each group of serial lines with a logical identifier (described as a second step in claim 1). On the opposite, in Wu, the association of the same logical identifier to the working line and the corresponding protection line is consecutive to a remapping operation as described in [0013]. So Wu does not disclose the different steps of the process in the order as described in claim 1".

However, as shown in Wu's abstract "Logical identifiers are assigned to the inputs of the ETSI module during system initialization". That is, logical identifiers are assigned at the initialization, prior to any other operation as required by the applicant's

argument.  Furthermore, the claim itself does not include any limitation requiring the

assignment of the logical identifiers to be performed prior to any other operation.  The

claim only requires that the assignment of logical identifiers to be the "second step" in a

process performed by the "means for managing the redundancy system".